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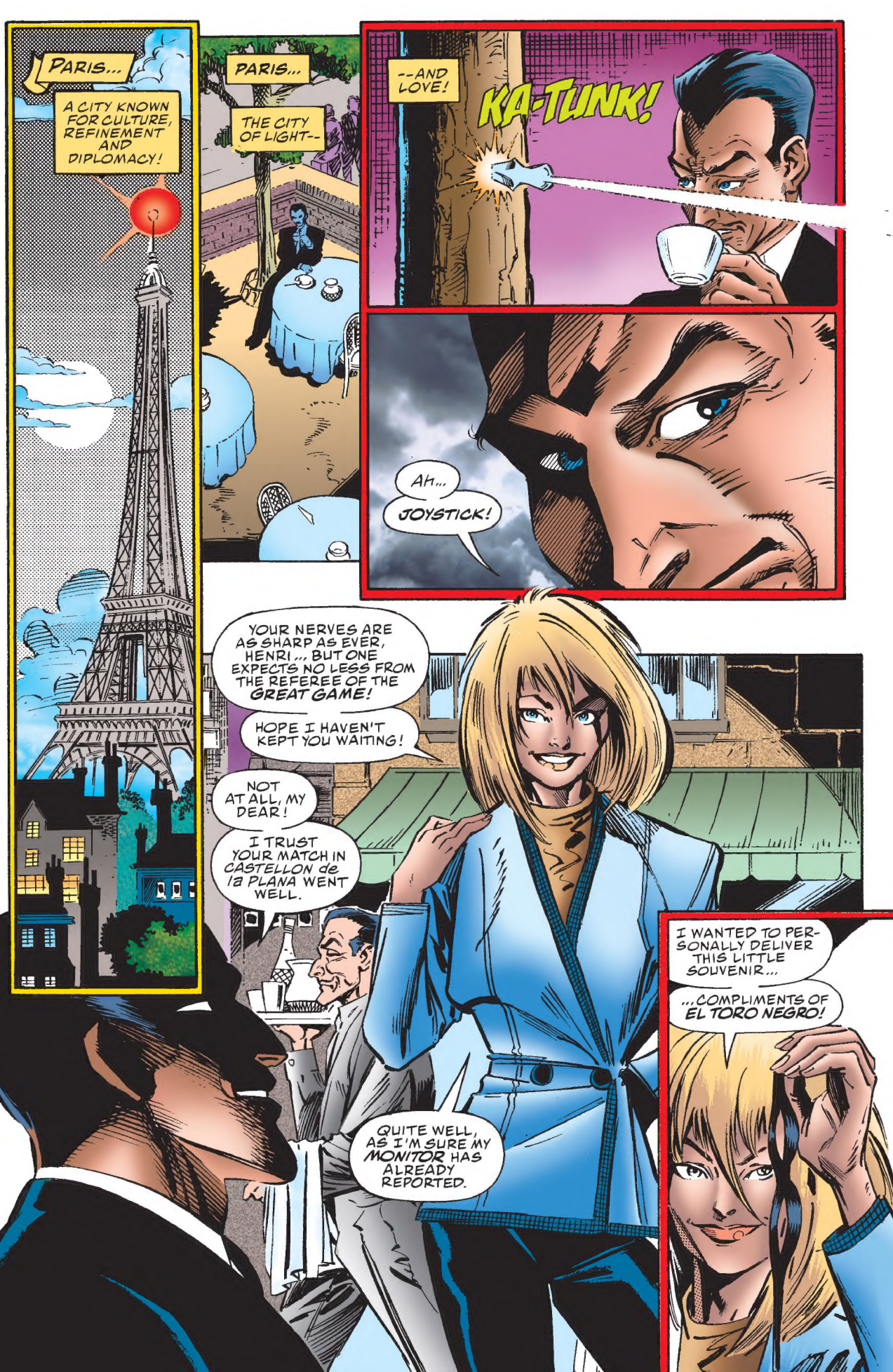
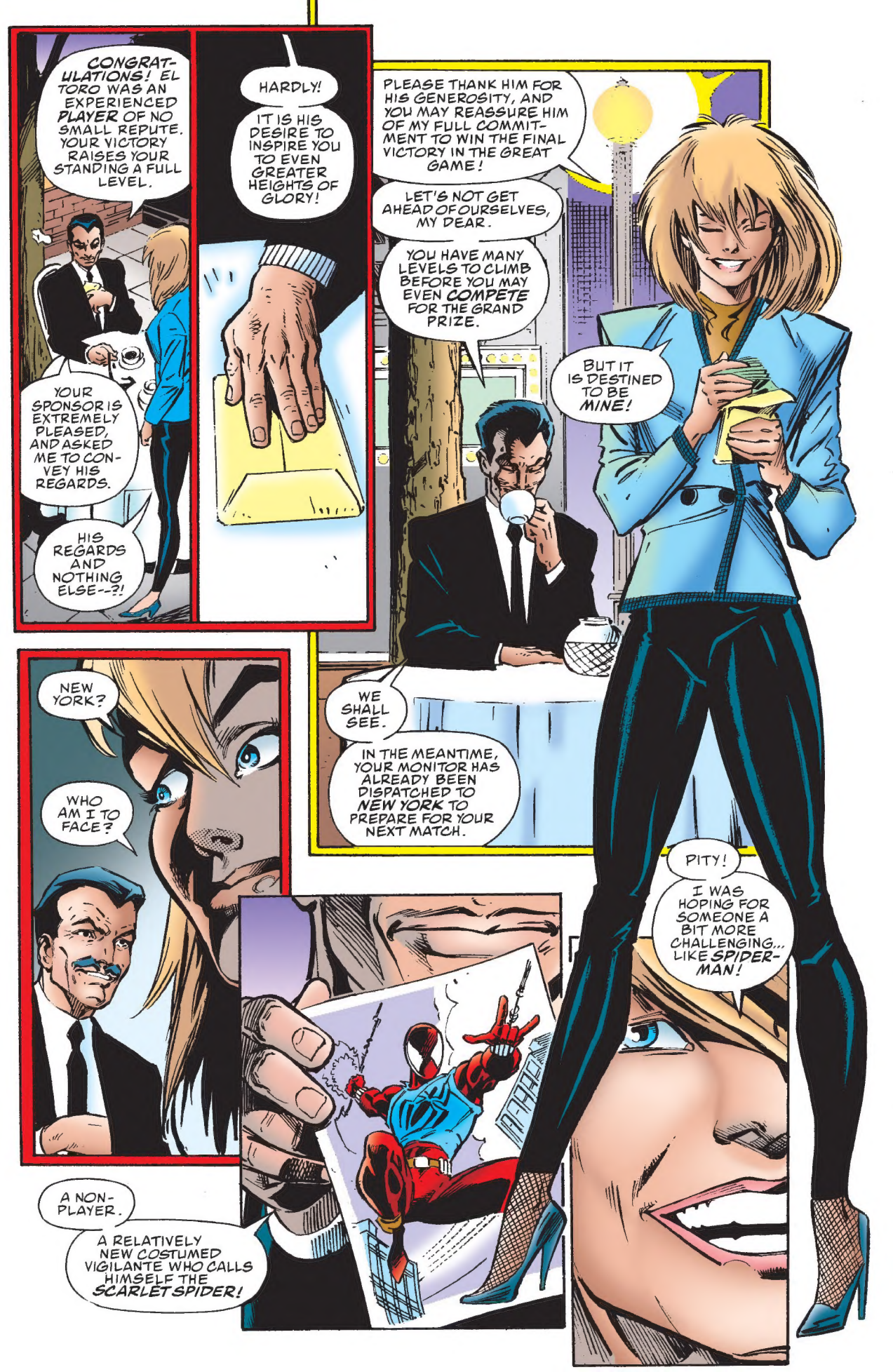
MARVEL
SPIDER-MAN GROUP
CYBERWAR
part 2 of 4
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE AMAZING
SCARLET SPIDER
JOYSTICK'S HER NAME--
MURDER'S HER GAME!


PARIS...
A CITY KNOWN FOR CULTURE, REFINEMENT AND DIPLOMACY!
PARIS...
THE CITY OF LIGHT--
--AND LOVE!
KA-TUNK!
AH...
JOYSTICK!
YOUR NERVES ARE AS SHARP AS EVER, HENRI... BUT ONE EXPECTS NO LESS FROM THE REFEREE OF THE GREAT GAME!
HOPE I HAVEN'T KEPT YOU WAITING!
NOT AT ALL, MY DEAR!
I TRUST YOUR MATCH IN CASTELLON de la PLANA WENT WELL.
QUITE WELL, AS I'M SURE MY MONITOR HAS ALREADY REPORTED.
I WANTED TO PERSONALLY DELIVER THIS LITTLE SOUVENIR...
...COMPLIMENTS OF EL TORO NEGRO!


CONGRATULATIONS! EL TORO WAS AN EXPERIENCED PLAYER OF NO SMALL REPUTE. YOUR VICTORY RAISES YOUR STANDING A FULL LEVEL.
YOUR SPONSOR IS EXTREMELY PLEASED, AND ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS REGARDS.
HIS REGARDS AND NOTHING ELSE--?!
HARDLY!
IT IS HIS DESIRE TO INSPIRE YOU TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS OF GLORY!
PLEASE THANK HIM FOR HIS GENEROSITY, AND YOU MAY REASSURE HIM OF MY FULL COMMITMENT TO WIN THE FINAL VICTORY IN THE GREAT GAME!
LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES, MY DEAR.
YOU HAVE MANY LEVELS TO CLIMB BEFORE YOU MAY EVEN COMPETE FOR THE GRAND PRIZE.
BUT IT IS DESTINED TO BE MINE!
WE SHALL SEE.
IN THE MEANTIME, YOUR MONITOR HAS ALREADY BEEN DISPATCHED TO NEW YORK TO PREPARE FOR YOUR NEXT MATCH.
NEW YORK?
WHO AM I TO FACE?
A NON-PLAYER.
A RELATIVELY NEW COSTUMED VIGILANTE WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE SCARLET SPIDER!
PITY!
I WAS HOPING FOR SOMEONE A BIT MORE CHALLENGING... LIKE SPIDER-MAN!

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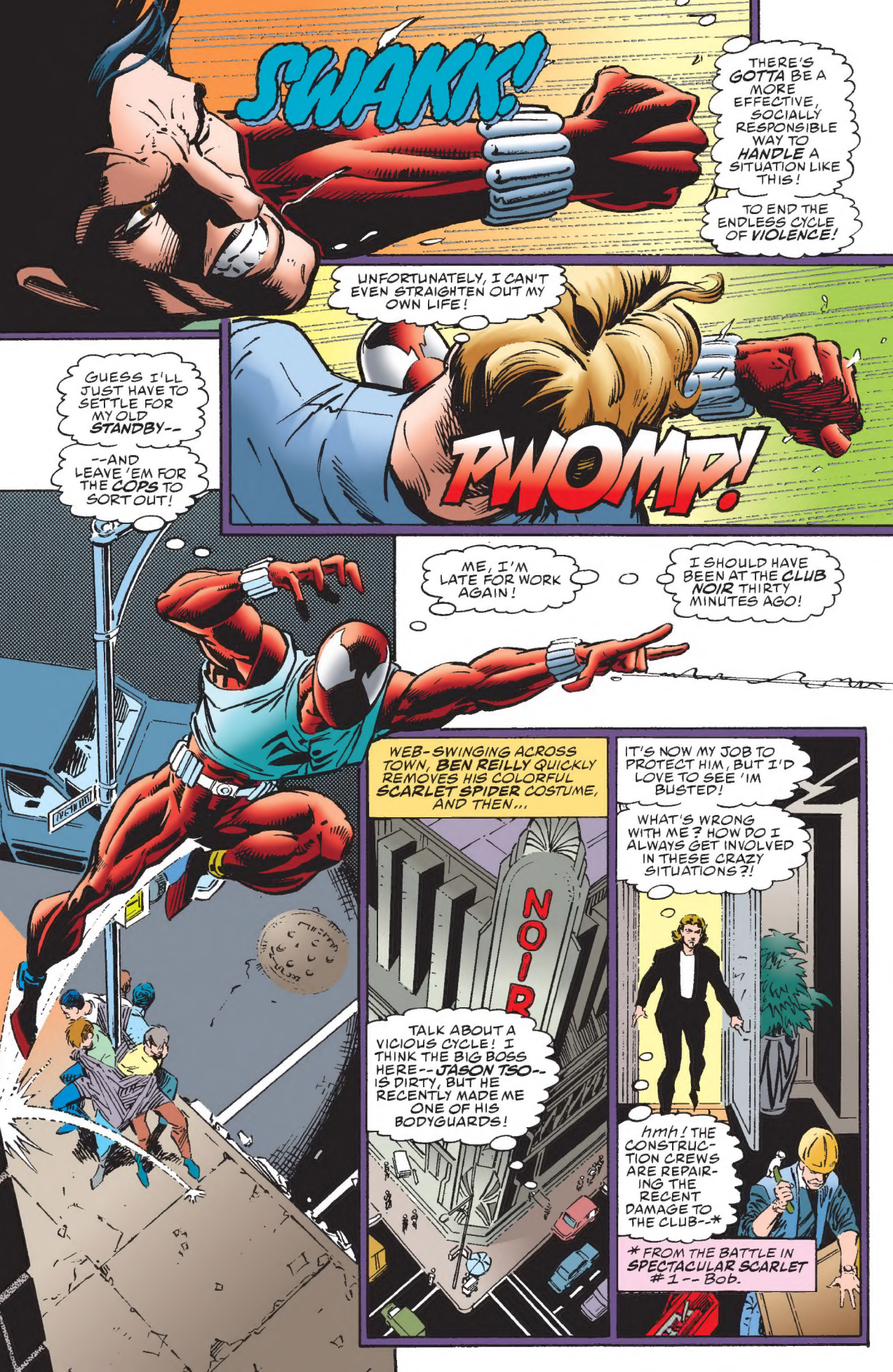
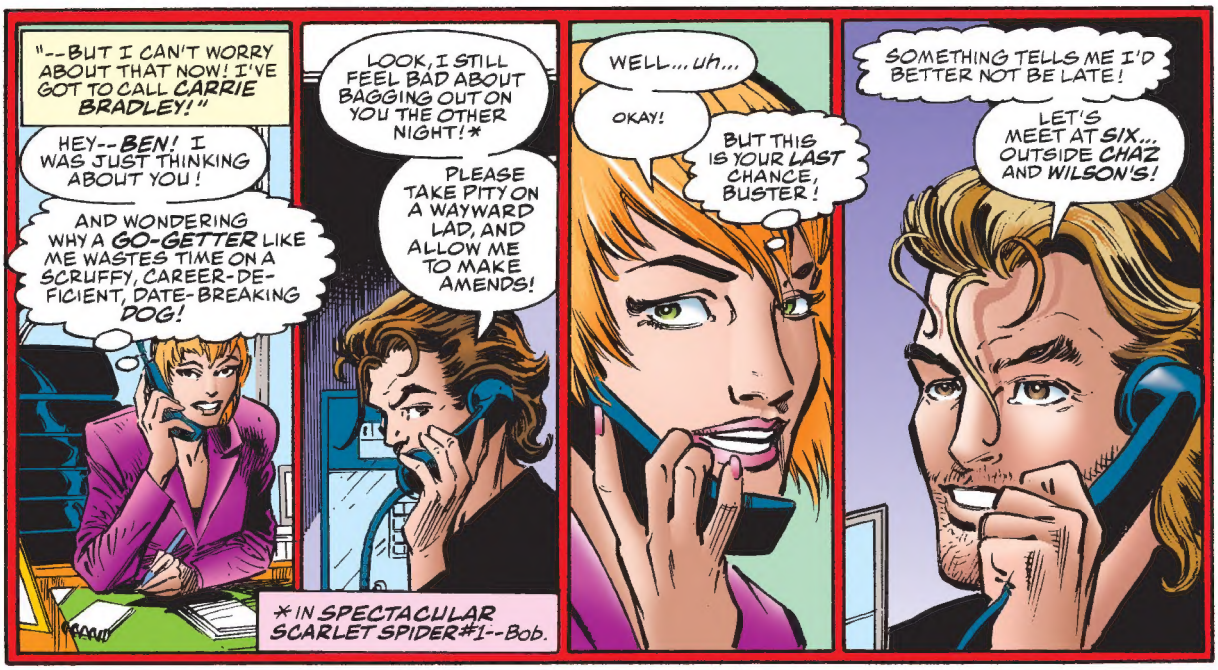
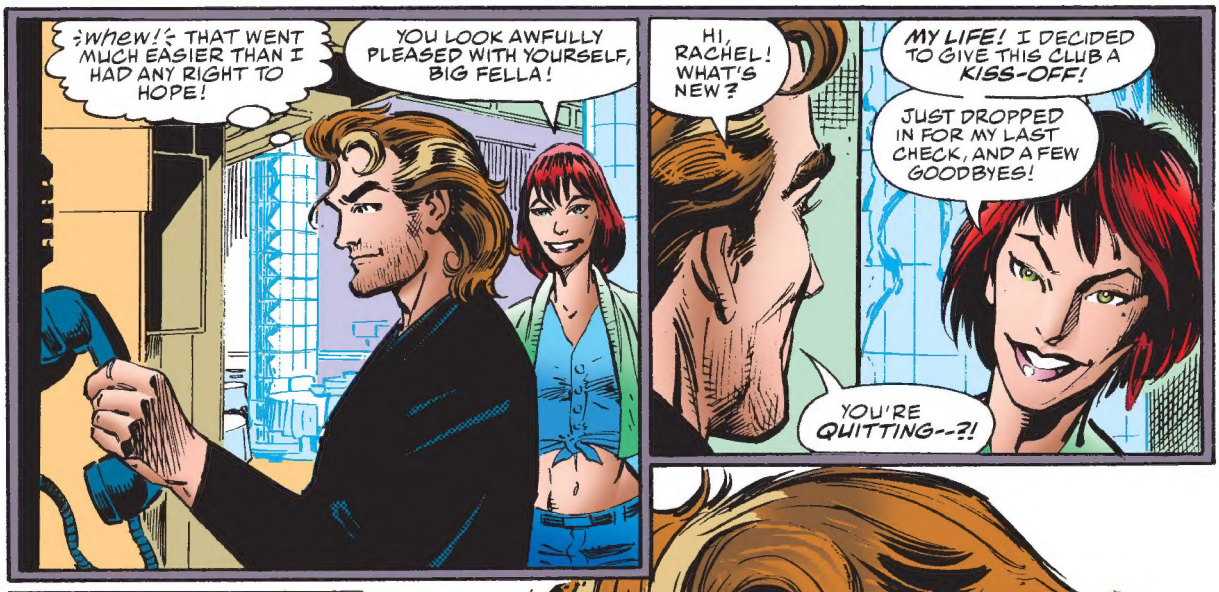
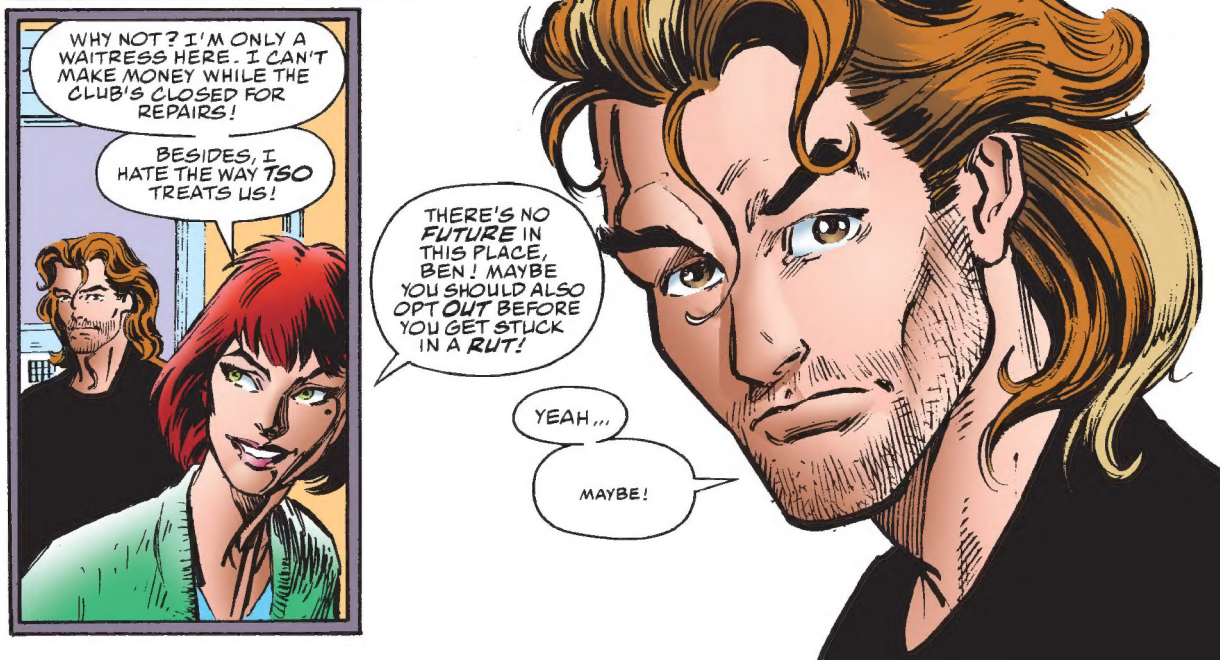
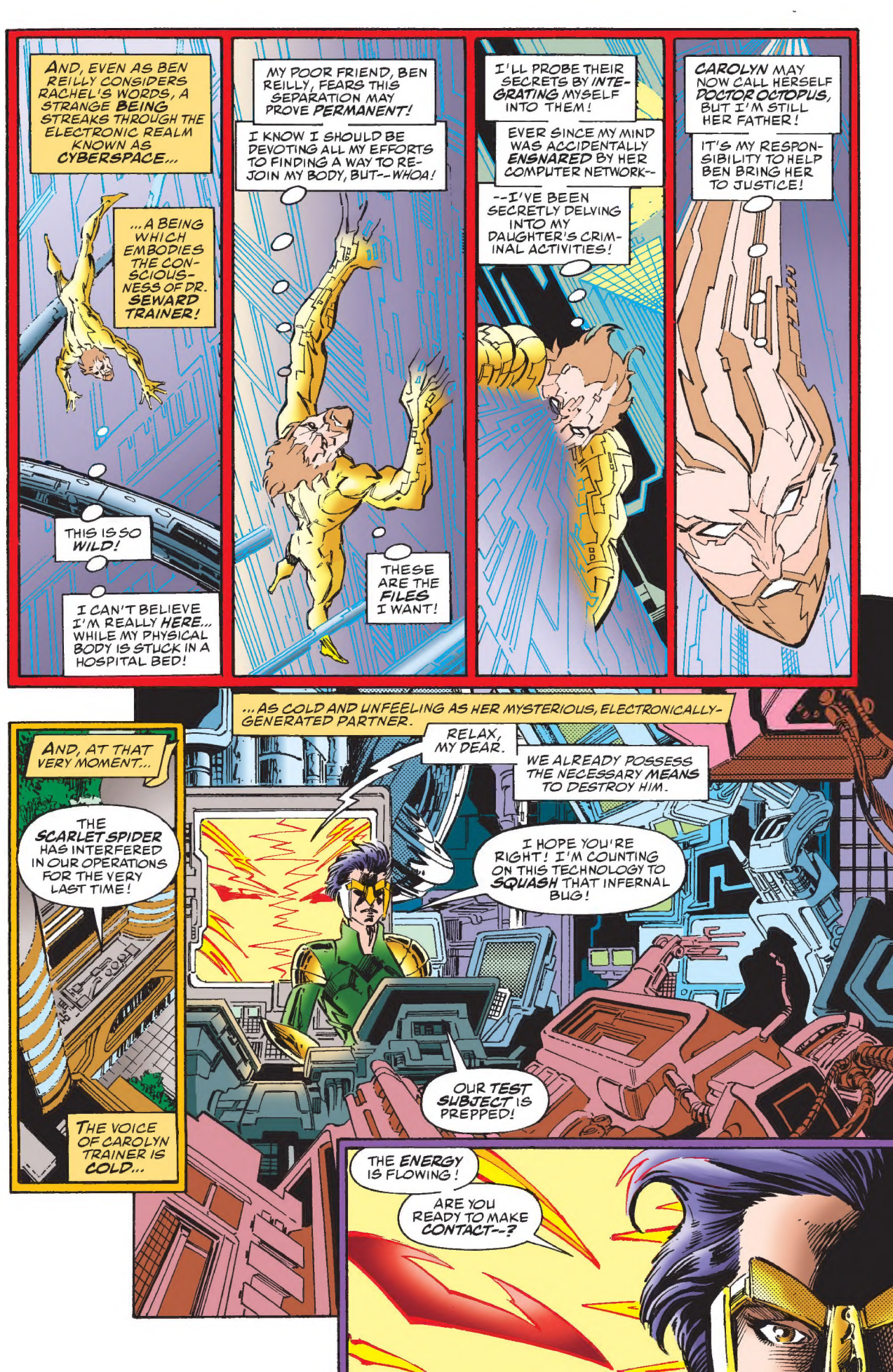
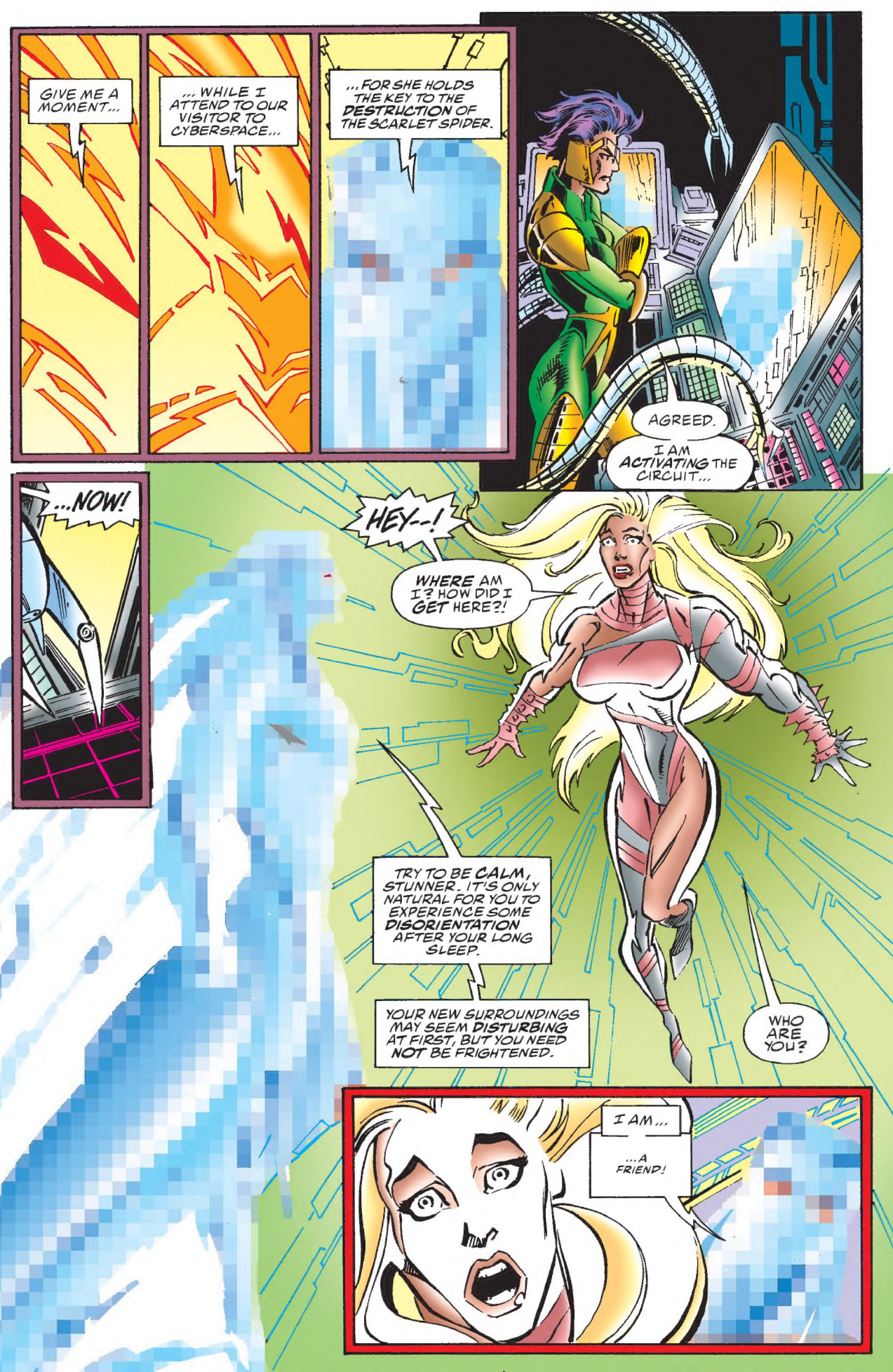

SWAKK!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A MORE EFFECTIVE, SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE WAY TO HANDLE A SITUATION LIKE THIS!
TO END THE ENDLESS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE!
UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T EVEN STRAIGHTEN OUT MY OWN LIFE!
PWOMP!
GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR MY OLD STANDBY--
--AND LEAVE 'EM FOR THE COPS TO SORT OUT!
ME, I'M LATE FOR WORK AGAIN!
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE CLUB NOIR THIRTY MINUTES AGO!
WEB-SWINGING ACROSS TOWN, BEN REILLY QUICKLY REMOVES HIS COLORFUL SCARLET SPIDER COSTUME, AND THEN...
NOIR
TALK ABOUT A VICIOUS CYCLE! I THINK THE BIG BOSS HERE--JASON TSO--IS DIRTY, BUT HE RECENTLY MADE ME ONE OF HIS BODYGUARDS!
IT'S NOW MY JOB TO PROTECT HIM, BUT I'D LOVE TO SEE 'IM BUSTED!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? HOW DO I ALWAYS GET INVOLVED IN THESE CRAZY SITUATIONS?!
hmh! THE CONSTRUCTION CREWS ARE REPAIRING THE RECENT DAMAGE TO THE CLUB--*
* FROM THE BATTLE IN SPECTACULAR SCARLET #1 -- Bob.

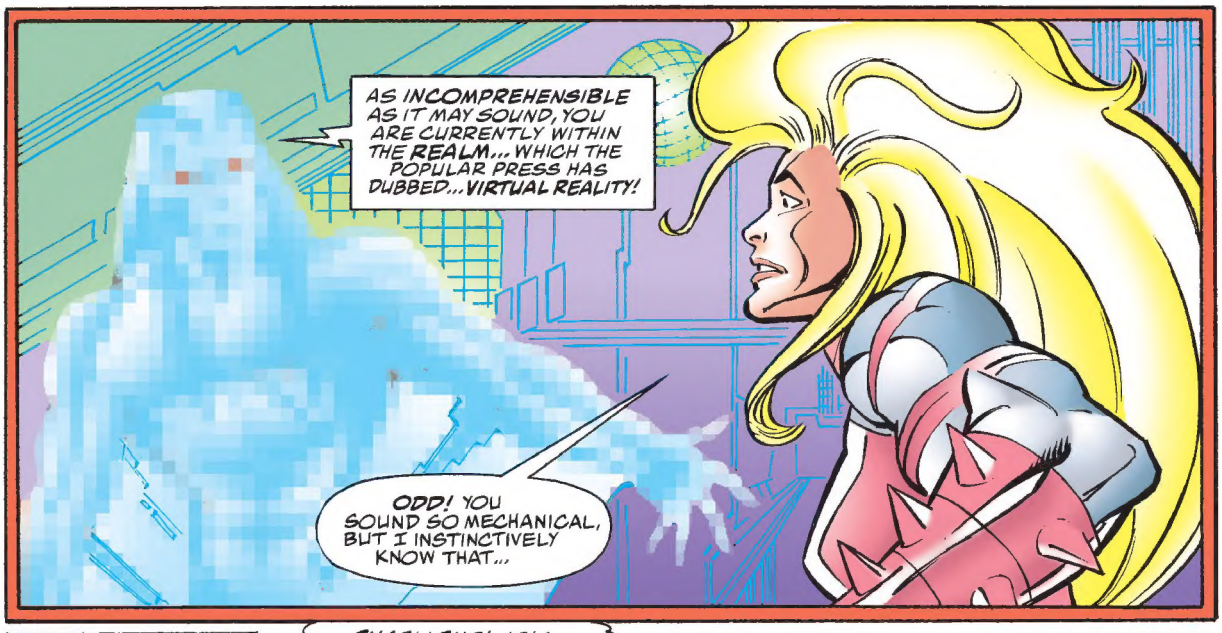

"--BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW! I'VE GOT TO CALL CARRIE BRADLEY!"
HEY--BEN! I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU!
AND WONDERING WHY A GO-GETTER LIKE ME WASTES TIME ON A SCRUFFY, CAREER-DEFICIENT, DATE-BREAKING DOG!
LOOK, I STILL FEEL BAD ABOUT BAGGING OUT ON YOU THE OTHER NIGHT!*
PLEASE TAKE PITY ON A WAYWARD LAD, AND ALLOW ME TO MAKE AMENDS!
*IN SPECTACULAR SCARLET SPIDER #1--Bob.
WELL... uh...
OKAY!
BUT THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, BUSTER!
SOMETHING TELLS ME I'D BETTER NOT BE LATE!
LET'S MEET AT SIX... OUTSIDE CHAZ AND WILSON'S!


÷whew!÷ THAT WENT MUCH EASIER THAN I HAD ANY RIGHT TO HOPE!
YOU LOOK AWFULLY PLEASED WITH YOURSELF, BIG FELLA!
HI, RACHEL! WHAT'S NEW?
MY LIFE! I DECIDED TO GIVE THIS CLUB A KISS-OFF!
JUST DROPPED IN FOR MY LAST CHECK, AND A FEW GOODBYES!
YOU'RE QUITTING--?!

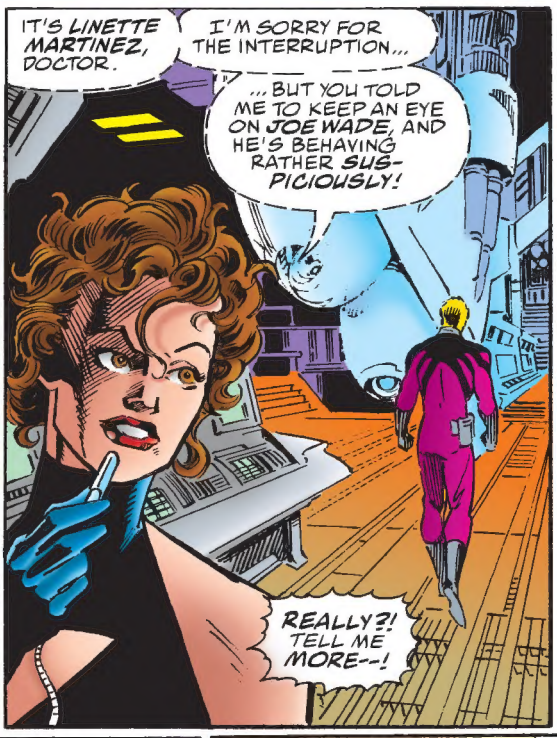

WHY NOT? I'M ONLY A WAITRESS HERE. I CAN'T MAKE MONEY WHILE THE CLUB'S CLOSED FOR REPAIRS!
BESIDES, I HATE THE WAY TSO TREATS US!
THERE'S NO FUTURE IN THIS PLACE, BEN! MAYBE YOU SHOULD ALSO OPT OUT BEFORE YOU GET STUCK IN A RUT!
YEAH...
MAYBE!

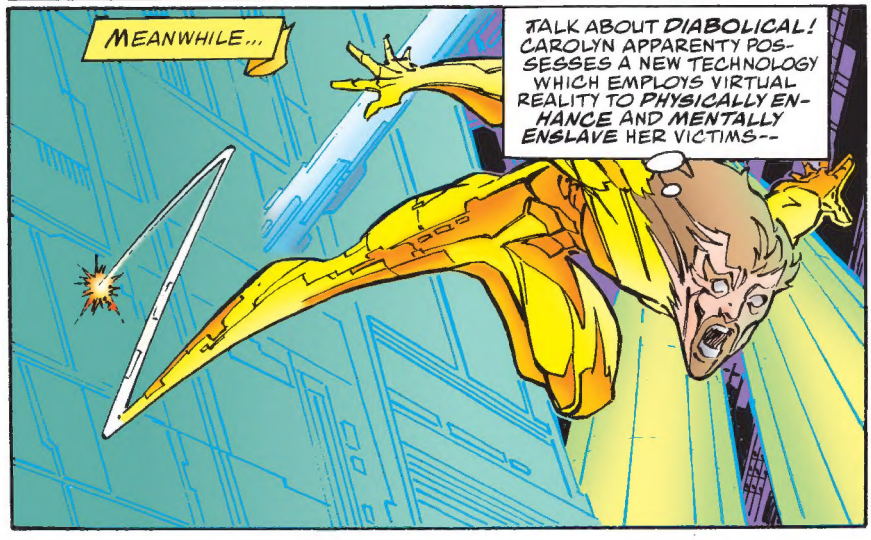

AND, EVEN AS BEN REILLY CONSIDERS RACHEL'S WORDS, A STRANGE BEING STREAKS THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC REALM KNOWN AS CYBERSPACE...
...A BEING WHICH EMBODIES THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF DR. SEWARD TRAINER!
THIS IS SO WILD!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M REALLY HERE... WHILE MY PHYSICAL BODY IS STUCK IN A HOSPITAL BED!
MY POOR FRIEND, BEN REILLY, FEARS THIS SEPARATION MAY PROVE PERMANENT!
I KNOW I SHOULD BE DEVOTING ALL MY EFFORTS TO FINDING A WAY TO REJOIN MY BODY, BUT--WHOA!
THESE ARE THE FILES I WANT!
I'LL PROBE THEIR SECRETS BY INTEGRATING MYSELF INTO THEM!
EVER SINCE MY MIND WAS ACCIDENTALLY ENSNARED BY HER COMPUTER NETWORK--
--I'VE BEEN SECRETLY DELVING INTO MY DAUGHTER'S CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES!
CAROLYN MAY NOW CALL HERSELF DOCTOR OCTOPUS, BUT I'M STILL HER FATHER!
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP BEN BRING HER TO JUSTICE!
AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
THE SCARLET SPIDER HAS INTERFERED IN OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE VERY LAST TIME!
THE VOICE OF CAROLYN TRAINER IS COLD...
...AS COLD AND UNFEELING AS HER MYSTERIOUS, ELECTRONICALLY-GENERATED PARTNER.
RELAX, MY DEAR.
WE ALREADY POSSESS THE NECESSARY MEANS TO DESTROY HIM.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M COUNTING ON THIS TECHNOLOGY TO SQUASH THAT INFERNAL BUG!
OUR TEST SUBJECT IS PREPPED!
THE ENERGY IS FLOWING!
ARE YOU READY TO MAKE CONTACT--?

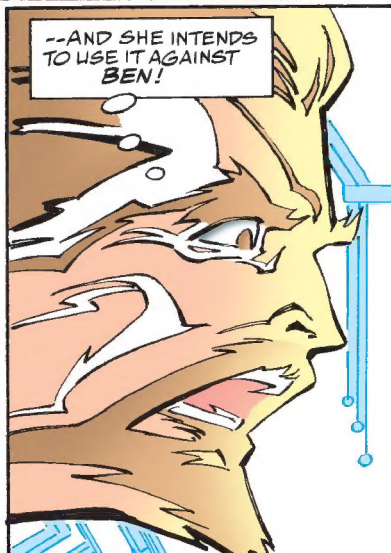

GIVE ME A MOMENT...
...WHILE I ATTEND TO OUR VISITOR TO CYBERSPACE...
...FOR SHE HOLDS THE KEY TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SCARLET SPIDER.
AGREED.
I AM ACTIVATING THE CIRCUIT...
...NOW!
HEY--!
WHERE AM I? HOW DID I GET HERE?!
TRY TO BE CALM, STUNNER. IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR YOU TO EXPERIENCE SOME DISORIENTATION AFTER YOUR LONG SLEEP.
YOUR NEW SURROUNDINGS MAY SEEM DISTURBING AT FIRST, BUT YOU NEED NOT BE FRIGHTENED.
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM...
...A FRIEND!

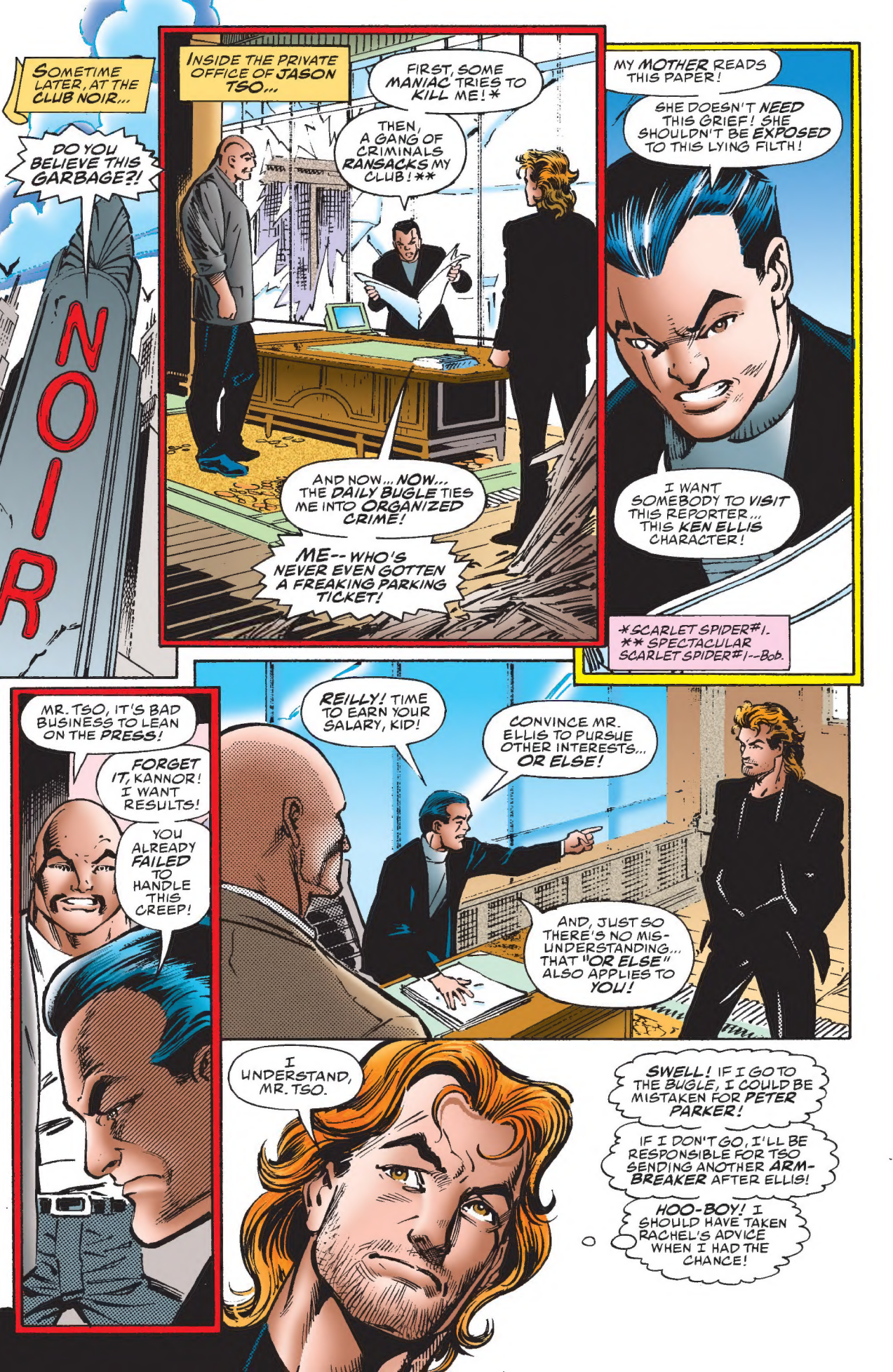

AS INCOMPREHENSIBLE AS IT MAY SOUND, YOU ARE CURRENTLY WITHIN THE REALM... WHICH THE POPULAR PRESS HAS DUBBED... VIRTUAL REALITY!
ODD! YOU SOUND SO MECHANICAL, BUT I INSTINCTIVELY KNOW THAT...

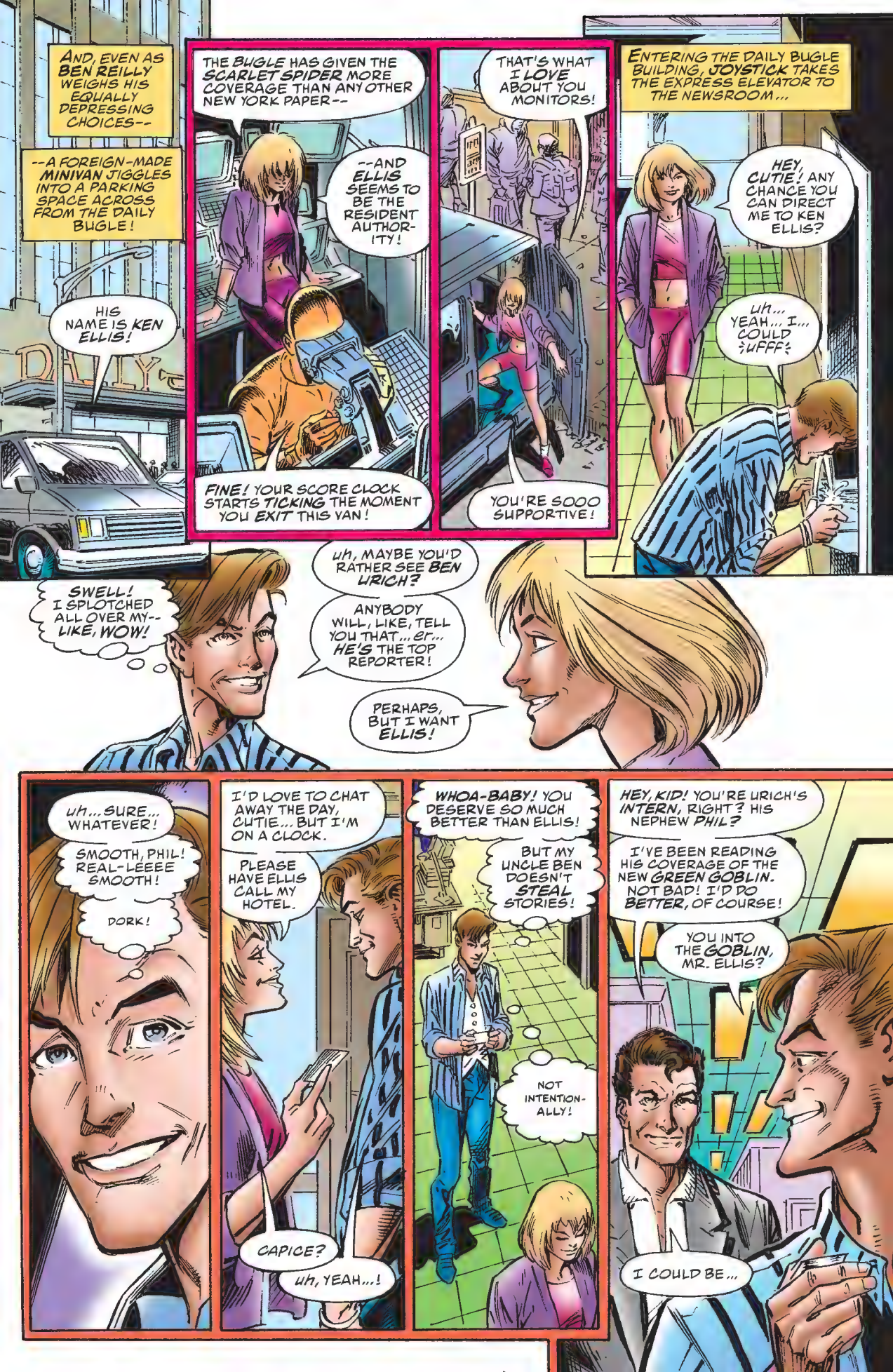
...I CAN TRUST YOU!
EXCELLENT! HE'S ALREADY BENDING HER TO HIS WILL, AND--
BANG!
WHO IS IT? WHAT DO YOU WANT?


IT'S LINETTE MARTINEZ, DOCTOR.
I'M SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION...
...BUT YOU TOLD ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON JOE WADE, AND HE'S BEHAVING RATHER SUSPICIOUSLY!
REALLY?! TELL ME MORE--!


MEANWHILE...
TALK ABOUT DIABOLICAL! CAROLYN APPARENTY POSSESSES A NEW TECHNOLOGY WHICH EMPLOYS VIRTUAL REALITY TO PHYSICALLY ENHANCE AND MENTALLY ENSLAVE HER VICTIMS--


--AND SHE INTENDS TO USE IT AGAINST BEN!


SOMETIME LATER, AT THE CLUB NOIR...
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS GARBAGE?!
NOIR
INSIDE THE PRIVATE OFFICE OF JASON TSO...
FIRST, SOME MANIAC TRIES TO KILL ME!*
THEN, A GANG OF CRIMINALS RANSACKS MY CLUB!**
AND NOW... NOW... THE DAILY BUGLE TIES ME INTO ORGANIZED CRIME!
ME-- WHO'S NEVER EVEN GOTTEN A FREAKING PARKING TICKET!
MY MOTHER READS THIS PAPER!
SHE DOESN'T NEED THIS GRIEF! SHE SHOULDN'T BE EXPOSED TO THIS LYING FILTH!
I WANT SOMEBODY TO VISIT THIS REPORTER... THIS KEN ELLIS CHARACTER!
*SCARLET SPIDER#1.
**SPECTACULAR SCARLET SPIDER#1--Bob.
MR. TSO, IT'S BAD BUSINESS TO LEAN ON THE PRESS!
FORGET IT, KANNOR! I WANT RESULTS!
YOU ALREADY FAILED TO HANDLE THIS CREEP!
REILLY! TIME TO EARN YOUR SALARY, KID!
CONVINCE MR. ELLIS TO PURSUE OTHER INTERESTS... OR ELSE!
AND, JUST SO THERE'S NO MIS-UNDERSTANDING... THAT "OR ELSE" ALSO APPLIES TO YOU!
I UNDERSTAND, MR. TSO.
SWELL! IF I GO TO THE BUGLE, I COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR PETER PARKER!
IF I DON'T GO, I'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TSO SENDING ANOTHER ARM-BREAKER AFTER ELLIS!
HOO-BOY! I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN RACHEL'S ADVICE WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!

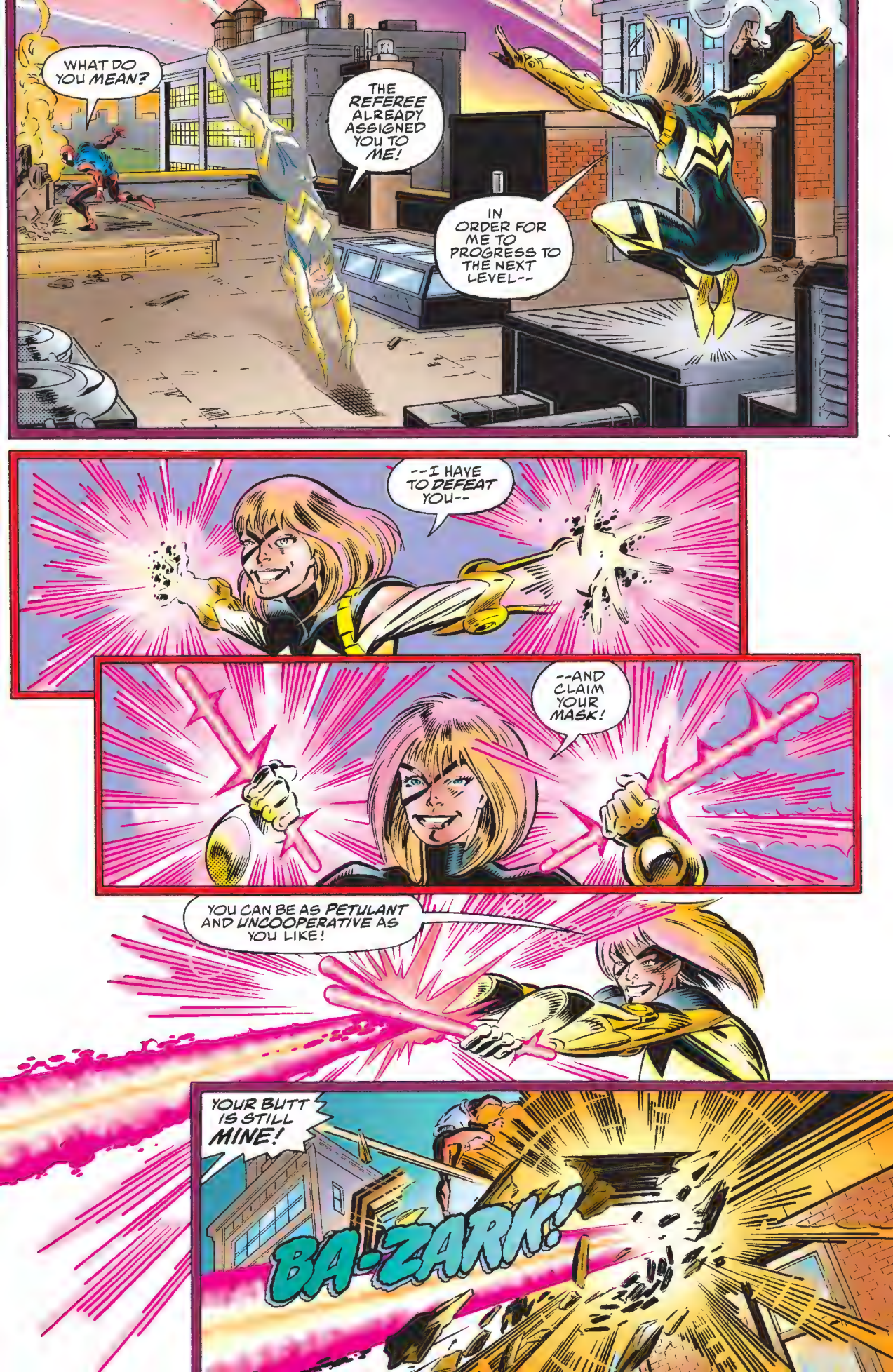

AND, EVEN AS BEN REILLY WEIGHS HIS EQUALLY DEPRESSING CHOICES--
--A FOREIGN-MADE MINIVAN JIGGLES INTO A PARKING SPACE ACROSS FROM THE DAILY BUGLE!
HIS NAME IS KEN ELLIS!
THE BUGLE HAS GIVEN THE SCARLET SPIDER MORE COVERAGE THAN ANY OTHER NEW YORK PAPER--
--AND ELLIS SEEMS TO BE THE RESIDENT AUTHORITY!
FINE! YOUR SCORE CLOCK STARTS TICKING THE MOMENT YOU EXIT THIS VAN!
THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU MONITORS!
YOU'RE SOOO SUPPORTIVE!
ENTERING THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING, JOYSTICK TAKES THE EXPRESS ELEVATOR TO THE NEWSROOM...
HEY, CUTIE! ANY CHANCE YOU CAN DIRECT ME TO KEN ELLIS?
UH... YEAH... I... COULD ¿UFFF¿
SWELL! I SPLOTCHED ALL OVER MY-- LIKE, WOW!
UH, MAYBE YOU'D RATHER SEE BEN URICH?
ANYBODY WILL, LIKE, TELL YOU THAT... er... HE'S THE TOP REPORTER!
PERHAPS, BUT I WANT ELLIS!
UH... SURE... WHATEVER!
SMOOTH, PHIL! REAL-LEEEE SMOOTH!
DORK!
I'D LOVE TO CHAT AWAY THE DAY, CUTIE... BUT I'M ON A CLOCK.
PLEASE HAVE ELLIS CALL MY HOTEL.
CAPICE?
UH, YEAH...!
WHOA-BABY! YOU DESERVE SO MUCH BETTER THAN ELLIS!
BUT MY UNCLE BEN DOESN'T STEAL STORIES!
NOT INTENTIONALLY!
HEY, KID! YOU'RE URICH'S INTERN, RIGHT? HIS NEPHEW PHIL?
I'VE BEEN READING HIS COVERAGE OF THE NEW GREEN GOBLIN. NOT BAD! I'D DO BETTER, OF COURSE!
YOU INTO THE GOBLIN, MR. ELLIS?
I COULD BE...

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS SLIMEBAG! HE'S TRYING TO QUICK-STEP MY UNC!
WELL, ONE FOUL TURN DESERVES ANOTHER...
Y' KNOW, MY UNCLE AIN'T AROUND... BUT I JUST GOT A TIP ON WHERE THE GOBLIN'S HANGING!
REALLY--?!
THINKING QUICKLY, PHILIP URICH AD LIBS A WEST SIDE STREET CORNER, AND THEN...
I OWE YOU, KID!
LIKE... HARDLY!
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
MOMENT OF TRUTH, REILLY!
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS--?
I GOT A CHOICE?!
NOPE!
THANKS FOR THE RIDE, KANNOR! I'LL CATCH YOU TOMORROW!
I HATE THIS JOB!
I HATE MY LIFE!
BUT, MOST OF ALL, I HATE--HEY!
THAT MAN EXITING THE BUGLE--IT'S ELLIS!
BE REAL FUNNY IF THAT KID HELPS ME SCOOP HIS OWN UNCLE!
LUCKY FOR ME, ORLANDO TOOK OFF ALREADY! I CAN CHANGE INTO THE SCARLET SPIDER, FOLLOW ELLIS, AND PROMISE HIM AN EXCLUSIVE--
--IF HE KEEPS A LOW PROFILE UNTIL TSO GOES DOWN!
THAT YOUNG MAN! WASN'T THAT--?
nah! MUST HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION!
THE MAN YOU IDENTIFIED AS ELLIS IS HAILING A CAB!
SHALL I FOLLOW?
ONLY IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN IN MY GOOD GRACES!

AND, EVEN AS KEN ELLIS UNWITTINGLY LEADS A PARADE AROUND TOWN...
--PHILIP URICH ARRIVES AT HIS EAST VILLAGE LOFT--
--AND THEN, THE GAME IS MOST DEFINITELY AFOOT!
TWENTY MINUTES LATER, ON THE WEST SIDE OF TOWN...
C'MON, ELLIS-- DO SOMETHING!
YOU SEEMED TO BE IN A REAL HURRY A FEW MINUTES AGO...
...NOW YOU'RE JUST HANGING OUT!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I'VE GOT TO TALK TO THE MAN, BUT I DOUBT HE'LL BE REAL RECEPTIVE IF I ACCIDENTALLY RUIN HIS RENDEZVOUS!
UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T WAIT MUCH LONGER! I'VE GOT TO MEET CARRIE, AND I DON'T DARE-- YIKES!
BA-ZA
RK!
SOME KIND OF ENERGY BLAST! TERRIFIC! WHO'S TARGETING ME THIS TIME?
DOCTOR OCTOPUS? HER STRIKE FORCE? MORE CYBER-SLAYERS? OR...

uh...
EXCUSE ME...
...DO I KNOW YOU?
DOUBT IT!
YOU CAN CALL ME JOYSTICK!
FOR AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN CONSCIOUS!
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE GREAT GAME!
ONCE MY MONITOR HAS CERTIFIED YOUR IDENTITY, AND SIGNED OFF ON YOU AS A WORTHY CHALLENGER--
--YOU AND I CAN GET DOWN TO SOME MAJOR GRATUITOUS VIOLENCE!
KEN ELLIS, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU STRUCK PAYDIRT!
THIS STORY COULD BE BIG! REAL BIG!
WE MIGHT EVEN BE TALKING PULITZER!

NICE MOVES!
YOU AVOIDED MY ATTACK LIKE A REAL PRO!
SPARE ME YOUR COMPLIMENTS, LADY!
WHAT'S THIS NONSENSE ABOUT A GAME?
YOU EVER PLAY MORTAL KOMBAT?
THE GAME WHERE YOU PIT YOUR FIGHTING SKILLS AGAINST AN OPPONENT ON A VIDEO SCREEN?
THIS IS SIMILAR!
ONLY WE COMPETE ON A MUCH MORE PHYSICAL LEVEL!
WHOEVER THIS LUNATIC IS, SHE PLAYS FOR KEEPS!
THOSE STICKS OF HERS PACK PLENTY OF EXPLOSIVE POWER!
I HATE TO BREAK THIS TO YOU, JOYSTICK, BUT I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THIS NONSENSE!
TOUGH LUCK, TIGHT BUNS!
YOU DON'T GET A CHOICE!

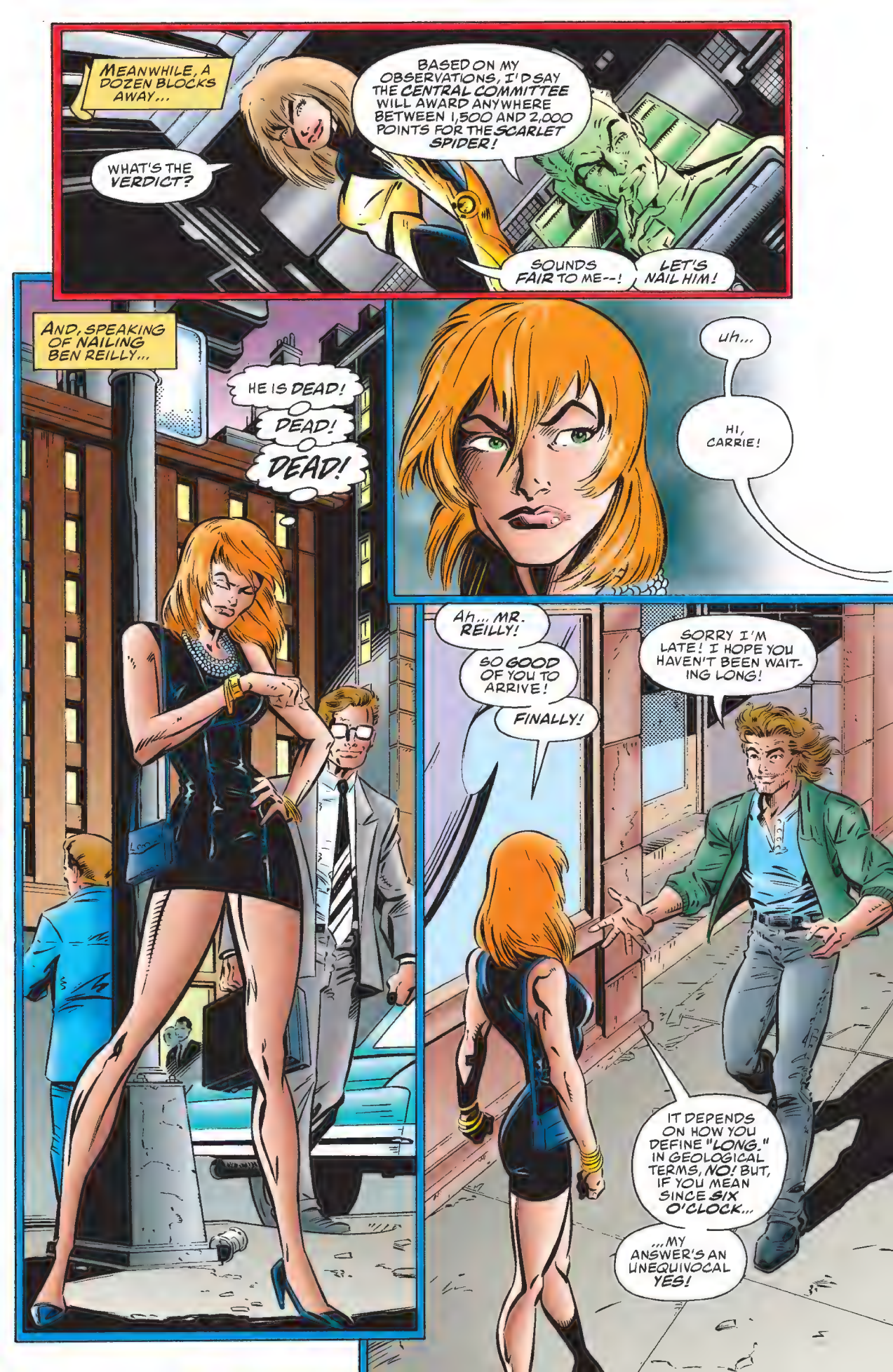

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE REFEREE ALREADY ASSIGNED YOU TO ME!
IN ORDER FOR ME TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL--
--I HAVE TO DEFEAT YOU--
--AND CLAIM YOUR MASK!
YOU CAN BE AS PETULANT AND UNCOOPERATIVE AS YOU LIKE!
YOUR BUTT IS STILL MINE!
BA-ZARK!

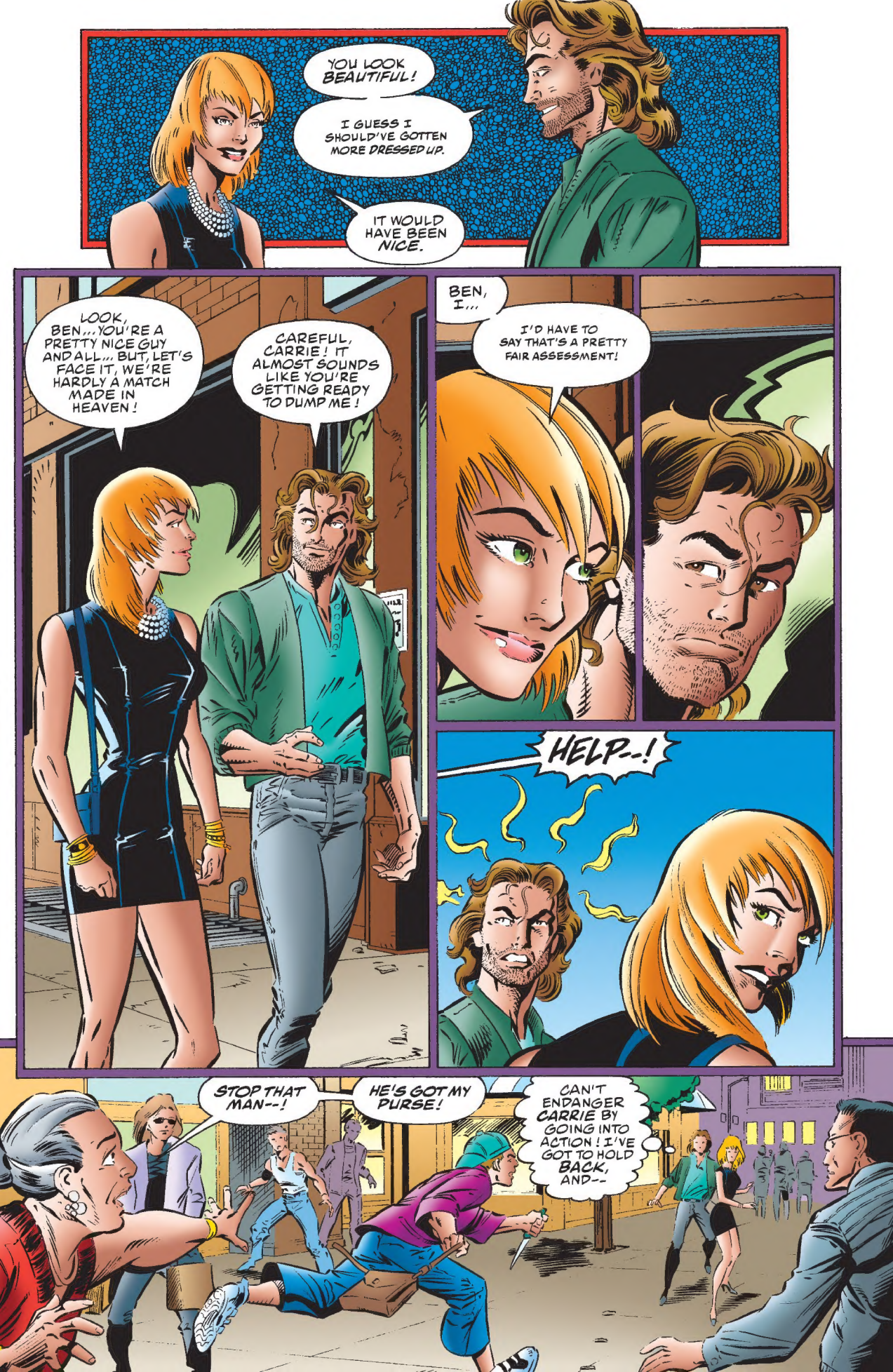
BUT THEN, A MERE INSTANT BEFORE DEATH CAN CLAIM HIM, HE IS YANKED TO SAFETY BY A MOST GRIM AND UNLIKELY ANGEL OF MERCY!
uh,oh!
HIS CAREER IS SUDDENLY FORGOTTEN, AS SEVERAL HUNDRED POUNDS OF CONCRETE AND MORTAR LUNGE TOWARD KEN ELLIS--!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
MY GOD--!
IT'S THE GREEN GOBLIN!
WHAT'S WITH THIS SCENE?!
I ONLY WANTED TO DRUM ELLIS FOR TRYING TO DOG MY UNCLE, BUT THIS IS, LIKE, WACKED OUT!
MONITOR, CAN YOU HEAR ME--?
A UFP* HAS ENTERED THE GAME!
CONFIRMED! DO YOU WISH TO WITHDRAW--?
NO WAY! I SCORED A FIRST CONTACT IN RECORD TIME!
LET'S COMPLETE THE ROUND! I WANT MY POINTS!
UNDERSTOOD!
*AN "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING PLAYER"--Bob.

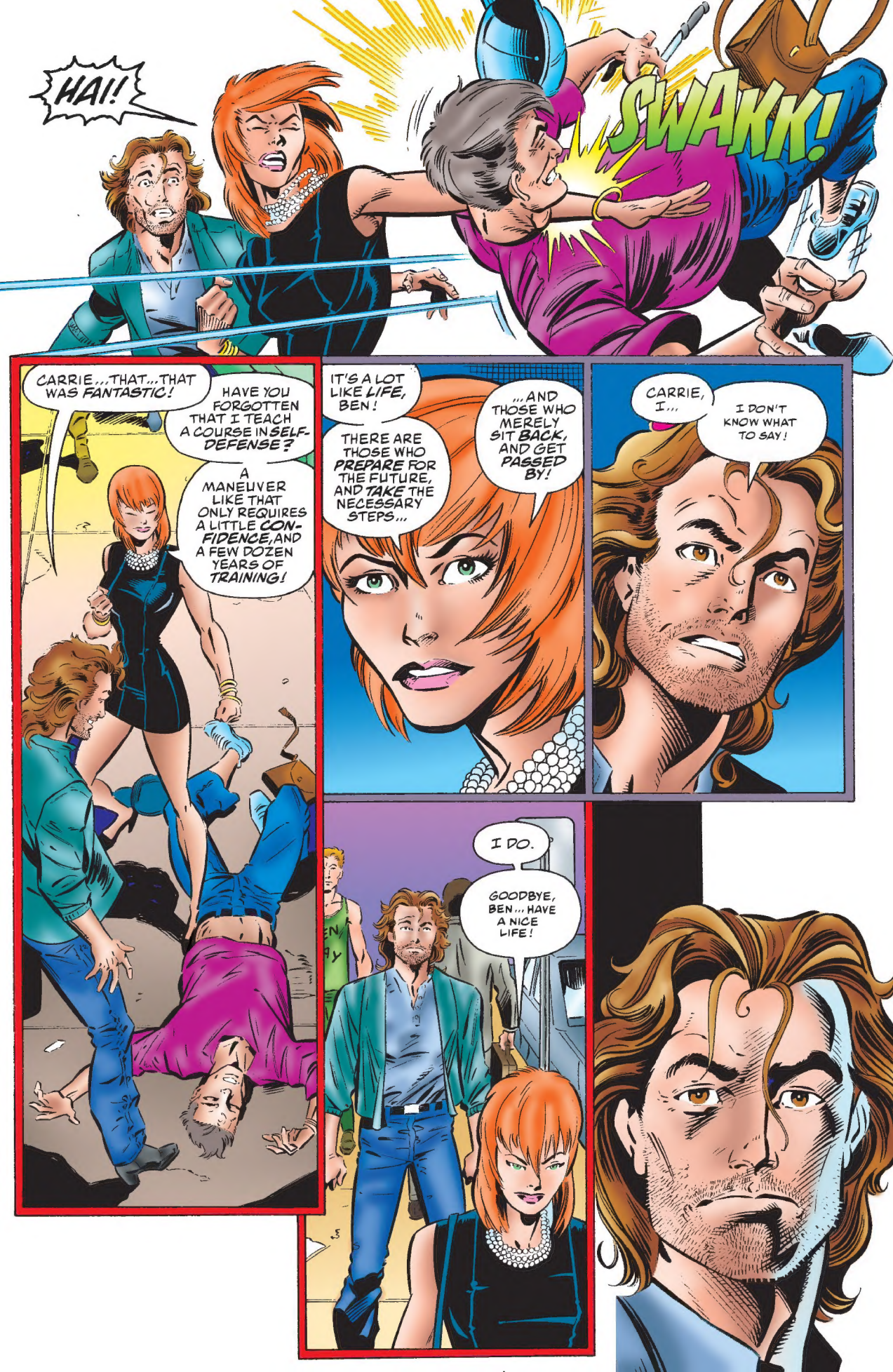
THE SCARLET SPIDER IS ON THE SCENE...
...AND WE DIDN'T EXACTLY BOND THE LAST TIME WE MET!*
HEY, GOBLIN... HOW'S ABOUT AN INTER-VIEW?
uh... NOT NOW, PAL!
I'M KINDA BUSY!
TAKE A SEAT, AND I'LL CATCH YOU LATER!
LIKE... NEVER!
I KNOW I SHOULD BOOK BEFORE THE SPIDER SPOTS ME, BUT THAT'S THE MAJOR BABE WHO PLAYED ME AT THE BUGLE!
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?!
*AS SHOWN IN WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #125--Bob.
MY LIFE IS ALREADY WAY TOO COMPLICATED FOR ME TO PUT UP WITH THIS NON-SENSE!
ENOUGH, LADY! I'M WARNING YOU FOR THE LAST TIME--!
DON'T BE SUCH A WHINY BABY, SWEET CHEEKS!
I'M JUST A PARTY GIRL WHO WANTS A LITTLE FUN!
FUN, HUH? I'LL SHOW YOU FUN!
LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU PLAY "DODGE THE FIST!"
AT LAST! YOU'RE FINALLY SHOWING THE RIGHT SPIRIT--!

UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S TOO LITTLE... TOO LATE!
IT'S UNCANNY! SHE'S EASILY AS FAST, AS AGILE, AND AS STRONG AS ME, AND--ARKK!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, MONITOR?
WHY DON'T I JUST CAP THIS GUY RIGHT NOW?
SORRY! HE'S A NON-PLAYER, REMEMBER?
THE RULES SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT WE MUST GIVE HIM TIME TO ASSIMILATE THE SITUATION, AND PREPARE A DEFENSE!
HEY--! I HEARD THAT! THE CIRCUITRY WITHIN MY MASK MUST BE PICKING UP THEIR RADIO SIGNALS!
COOL!
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THIS PRELIM IS OVER!
ugnnn!
RELAX, SPIDER! YOU JUST GOT A RESPITE!
BUT YOU AND YOUR BAT-GLIDING BUDDY HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME!
CIAO... FOR NOW!

WHERE...
WHERE'D SHE GO?!
DON'T ASK ME!
?
HEY, FELLA, I DON'T MEAN TO BE PUSHY OR ANYTHING, BUT...
...WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
uh... I WAS JUST, YOU KNOW... FLYING AROUND!
LOOK, WEBS, BE COOL! I GOT NO GRIPE WITH YOU!
THAT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND--!
MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU TRACK THAT LADY!
LIKE I'M REALLY READY TO PAL WITH THE GREEN GOBLIN, AND--OHMIGOSH! YOU GOT THE TIME?
A LITTLE AFTER SIX!
I'M DEAD!
I AM DEAD!
WHAT DO YOU SAY--? YOU WANT MY HELP?!
Ah...OKAY! WE'LL MEET HERE TOMORROW AT MIDNIGHT!
C'MON, MAN! CUT ME SOME SLACK! IT AIN'T EASY BEING THE NEW GUY IN TOWN--!
NO...IT SURE AIN'T!
YEAH... WHATEVER!
HEY--! I JUST REMEMBERED!
ELLIS IS STILL STUCK ON THAT WATER TOWER!
MAYBE I SHOULD RESCUE HIM!
LIKE... FAT CHANCE!


MEANWHILE, A DOZEN BLOCKS AWAY...
WHAT'S THE VERDICT?
BASED ON MY OBSERVATIONS, I'D SAY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL AWARD ANYWHERE BETWEEN 1,500 AND 2,000 POINTS FOR THE SCARLET SPIDER!
SOUNDS FAIR TO ME--!
LET'S NAIL HIM!
AND, SPEAKING OF NAILING BEN REILLY...
HE IS DEAD!
DEAD!
DEAD!
UH...
HI, CARRIE!
AH... MR. REILLY!
SO GOOD OF YOU TO ARRIVE!
FINALLY!
SORRY I'M LATE! I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WAITING LONG!
IT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU DEFINE "LONG." IN GEOLOGICAL TERMS, NO! BUT, IF YOU MEAN SINCE SIX O'CLOCK...
...MY ANSWER'S AN UNEQUIVOCAL YES!


YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL!
I GUESS I SHOULD'VE GOTTEN MORE DRESSED UP.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE.
LOOK, BEN... YOU'RE A PRETTY NICE GUY AND ALL... BUT, LET'S FACE IT, WE'RE HARDLY A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!
CAREFUL, CARRIE! IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING READY TO DUMP ME!
BEN, I...
I'D HAVE TO SAY THAT'S A PRETTY FAIR ASSESSMENT!
HELP--!
STOP THAT MAN--!
HE'S GOT MY PURSE!
CAN'T ENDANGER CARRIE BY GOING INTO ACTION! I'VE GOT TO HOLD BACK, AND--


HAI!
SWAKK!
CARRIE...THAT...THAT WAS FANTASTIC!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I TEACH A COURSE IN SELF-DEFENSE?
A MANEUVER LIKE THAT ONLY REQUIRES A LITTLE CON-FIDENCE, AND A FEW DOZEN YEARS OF TRAINING!
IT'S A LOT LIKE LIFE, BEN!
THERE ARE THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE, AND TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS...
...AND THOSE WHO MERELY SIT BACK, AND GET PASSED BY!
CARRIE, I...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
I DO.
GOODBYE, BEN... HAVE A NICE LIFE!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, BACK IN PARIS...
WHERE IS SHE, HENRI?
WHERE HAVE YOU SENT THAT MISERABLE, SCHEMING WITCH?!
JOYSTICK HUMILIATED ME!
SHE STRIPPED ME OF MY HONOR... MY LEVEL... MY VERY MASK!
H-HAVE YOU GONE INSANE, MAN?!
TH-THERE ARE RULES AGAINST PERSONAL RETRIBUTION!
HANG THE RULES! HANG THE BLASTED GAME!
EL TORO NEGRO WILL HAVE VENGEANCE!
JOYSTICK WILL DIE...AS WILL ALL WHO OPPOSE ME!
THE GAME CONTINUES IN GREEN GOBLIN #3! THE CYBER WAR PROGRESSES IN SCARLET SPIDER #2! AND, JOIN US NEXT MONTH FOR AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #407, WHICH GUEST-STARS SILVER SABLE, SANDMAN, AND THE HUMAN TORCH!

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